

MEXICO

Lessons for Mission Minded Kids

Lesson 8

Getting to Mexico: The Lakatos Family



Mexico

Lesson 8: Getting to Mexico

Goals for Lesson 8:

- Children will be introduced to the Lakatos family and their ministry to the Mexican churches, through the SEMBIMEX Seminary.
- Children will understand that God uses ordinary people (including children) with ordinary talents and lives to bring glory to Himself and reach the people of the world with the Good News of Jesus.
- Children will be introduced to Nick and Lisa's favorite verse, and will understand that when we offer our bodies (and lives) to God, He will use us in incredible ways.

Verse for Lakatos Family:

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him." Romans 12:1 (NLT)

Before Class:

- Read through lesson and decide what you will use according to your age group and time allotted.
- Back the Lakatos family picture with cardstock for stability, or prepare it as a slide to show on a screen. You may also be able to obtain individual copies of the Lakatos' prayer card to give to your children by calling the GMC office in Myerstown (800-866-7584) or contacting Lisa at nicholaslisa@msn.com If you wish, you may purchase magnetic strips for the children to affix on the back of the cards, so that they can hang them on the refrigerator at home.
- Write the Lakatos verse on a blackboard or on a large sheet of paper that can be hidden away. Decide which verse puzzle best suits the age and ability of your students, and make copies accordingly. The puzzle can also be made easier or more difficult by leaving the verse visible, or by hiding it away.
- Make a copy of the prayer sheet for each student to take home. Prepare Prayer Game as directed.
- Make a copy of the puzzle and the coloring page for each student. If you will be using them during class time, collect pencils and crayons for the students to use.

Lesson Plan:

- Open your session with a short prayer.
- Show your students the prayer card picture of the Lakatos family and introduce each family member by name. If you have obtained an individual prayer card for each of your children, pass them out now. If you purchased magnetic strips, give each child a strip and direct them to affix it on the back of the card.
- Read or tell the story part of the lesson, discussing as necessary, and highlighting the fact that each member of the Lakatos family has had an ordinary life, that God has used to bring others to Him. Talk about how God can use each of us in our daily lives to bring glory to Himself and show Jesus to those around us.
- Introduce Nick and Lisa's favorite verse. Talk about how we can offer our bodies and lives to God to use as He pleases. Ask why the children think this is their favorite verse, and discuss ways in which the Lakatos family has lived out that verse. (You may need to talk about what a sacrifice is and use Psalm 51:17 and Ephesians 5:2 to explain the concept of giving up one's life as a sacrifice to God.) Give the verse puzzles to the students as a way of reinforcing the verse and helping them to remember its significance. Say the verse together two or three times, and then either leave the verse visible, or remove it from sight, depending on the ability of your students. Give them a few minutes to complete the puzzle. Even non-readers can copy letters into the correct blanks, and can follow along with their fingers as the verse is pronounced, word by word. Younger students can be paired with older students, or if you only have non-readers, you can help them by underlining the words they will be copying with colored markers. As they work to copy the words, they are learning to hide God's Word in their hearts. End this exercise by reading the verse together slowly.
- Play the "MISSION" Prayer Game as directed.
- If you have time, use the Word Search or the Coloring Page. Use the Word Search to discuss Mexican items the Lakatos family might come across in Mexico. Use the Coloring Page to discuss how Nick will teach Mexican Worship Leaders to use their own native instruments to praise God.

Lesson 8 Story: Getting to Mexico

Do you remember how Mae Royer went to Mexico as a young lady in 1939? And do you remember how Spanish speaking E.C. churches have been planted all around Monterrey, Mexico as a result of her work there? Well, the Lakatos family are the E.C. missionaries in Mexico now. Nick and Lisa Lakatos have pastored E.C. churches for 14 years in Pennsylvania and Kentucky. They have also spent some time as missionaries in Japan. Now, they and their two children, Hannah and Samuel, have moved to Mexico to minister to the people there.

When Nick was your age, growing up in Sharon, PA, his favorite thing to do was play the drums. He started learning very early, and all through his school years, he played in many different bands, both for fun and for pay. He didn't know that God would someday use his love of music, and the talent He had given him, to teach and minister to many people all over the world. Just like you, Nick had chores to do at home, and time to play with friends. He liked to play basketball and video games with his friends, but music was always his first love.

Lisa's family lived in Colorado, Kentucky and Tennessee before finally settling in Greenville, PA when she was in 6th grade. She and her younger brother and sister were glad to be close to their grandparents in Greenville, and spent many happy times with them there. She loved playing with her beagle, Snuffy, and riding her bike and reading. Just like you, she went to school and helped with chores at home, and played with her friends and siblings.

Nick and Lisa met in high school, and then married after they were done with college. Both of them knew that they wanted to spend their lives serving Jesus. When Lisa was just four years old, she remembers praying, "Dear Jesus, when I grow up, I want to go around the world and tell people about You." God heard the prayer of that little girl, and prepared her throughout her whole life to be able to do just that. Even though she was just an ordinary girl, with a home and a family similar to yours, God has taken those ordinary experiences and used them in extra-ordinary ways to bring the Good News of Jesus to many people around the world.

After Nick and Lisa were married, they were commissioned as missionaries with OMS (One Mission Society) to work in Japan. They lived in Tokyo, (the world's largest city) teaching English and introducing the Japanese people to Jesus. They loved living and working in Japan, but after only two years, the climate in Japan had made Lisa's asthma so bad that they had to return home to Pennsylvania. Nick and Lisa were so disappointed and wondered why God had not allowed them to stay in Japan. They wondered what God wanted them to do next. They knew that God had a good plan for them, but they didn't know what it would be.

As it turned out, God asked Nick to be an E.C. pastor for a while. For 14 years, God asked them to stay in the U.S. and care for and love people here. They worked hard to introduce the people around them to Jesus, and to use their talents and life experiences to be missionaries to their neighbors. During that time, God also gave them two children, Hannah and Samuel.

Together, they prayed as a family for the people of the world, and wondered if God would once again send them somewhere far away.

As the years passed, the country of Mexico became an increasing burden on their hearts. They applied once again to OMS, and were soon given the assignment to prepare to serve the people in Mexico City. For several years, Nick and Lisa and Hannah and Samuel worked together on raising the funds they needed to live in Mexico and preparing in many other ways, including spending a whole year living in Costa Rica, learning the Spanish language and adjusting to living in a different culture.

Finally, in the summer of 2011, the Lakatos family moved to Mexico City (the third largest city in the world). There, they settled into their new home and routine. Nick and Lisa would start out by helping a team of people plant a new church. Then they would teach in SEMBIMEX, a seminary for Mexican pastors and church leaders. Nick would be training pastors and worship leaders, using his musical talents and the skills he learned as a pastor. Lisa would be teaching church leaders and children's workers how to teach others about Jesus. All of the things God had been teaching Nick and Lisa through their whole lives, would now be used to reach the Mexican people with the Good News about Jesus.

In Mexico, Hannah and Samuel leave their home early in the morning to go to school. Their car drives them out of the safety of the guarded neighborhood where they live, into the crowded, noisy street of the city. Looking out the window they see colorful buildings placed close together, stray dogs, people selling fruits and vegetables, people going to work, and adults and children who have no house and live on the streets. There are also people walking between the cars on the street selling things like newspapers, gum and flowers.

Hannah and Samuel attend Mexico City Christian Academy, a small Christian school about a 20 minute drive from the seminary where their parents teach. Their classmates are from Mexico, Korea, Canada and the USA. They study in English, but also learn Spanish every day and all activities outside of class are in Spanish, including their TV and movies, and all of their sports and games.

Hannah and Samuel take some interesting foods for lunch, like prickly pear fruit (a fruit from a cactus), pickled cactus, and of course, corn tortillas. They look forward to playing futbol (soccer) with their friends each day. It is the most popular sport in Mexico. Children in Mexico begin playing this game when they are very young, and they are very serious about playing well. Mexico has professional soccer teams and the children enjoy talking about their favorites.

Please remember to pray for Nick and Lisa and Hannah and Samuel as they love and care for the people of Mexico. Pray that many Mexican people would learn to know Jesus as Nick and Lisa work with the pastors and church leaders who are teaching their own people. Pray that God would use the talents and experiences He has given you to show the people around you the love of Jesus as well.

“ ___ s_, ___ a_ ___ th_ rs a_d
___ st_ _s, I p_ea_ w_ _h _o_ _o
g_ _e ___ r b_d_ _s t_ G_ _
b_ _a_s_ o_ a_ _ h_ ___ s d_ _e
___ r y_ __. L_ _ t_e_ b_ a l_v_ _g
a_ _ h_ _y ___ ri_ ___ e — t_ _
k_ _d ___ e w_ ___ fi_ _
a_ _e_ _a_ _e. T_ _s ___ s t_ _y
___ e w_ ___ t_ w_ ___ _p ___ m.”

R_m_n_ 12:1

“ And so, de_r br_thers and
sis_ers, I p_ead with _ou to
give your bo_ies to God
be_ause of all he h_s done for
you. Le_ them be a li_ing and
holy sac_ifice—the kind he
wil_ find acce_table. This is
t_uly the way to _orship him.”

Romans 12:_

“MISSION” Prayer Game

Game Preparation: Write the word “MISSION” on seven separate sheets of construction or cardstock paper, using one large letter on each sheet. Write the Bible verse reference under each large letter. Make a copy of the Prayer Sheet for each student. Decide ahead of time how you will divide your group and how you will direct the experience. Gather at least seven Kid’s Bibles.

To Play the Game: Give each child a copy of the Prayer Sheet. Give one sheet of paper with one letter of the word “MISSION” to each of seven students who can read. Depending on your group, pair non-readers with those that have letters, or make seven small groups, each with at least one reader, one large letter and one Kid’s Bible.

Starting with “M”, each group will look up their reference, read the verse out loud, and pray for the Lakatos family in reference to their letter. If there are multiple children in each group, have each child participate in some way, with each of the other groups listening carefully, and bowing for each prayer. Continue through “N”, having each child participating in some way. As each group “presents” their letter, have them stand along one wall of the classroom holding their letter up, so that at the end, you will spell the word “MISSION”, and each child has offered some small sacrifice to God on behalf of the Lakatos family.

If you have only non-readers, make seven small groups and give out the large letters. They will recognize the letters, and each group can shout out their letter when it is their turn. One group at a time will stand in a line holding up their letter until the word “MISSION” is spelled out. With each letter, tell them that “the Bible says.....”, and then read the verse, explaining if necessary. Tell them what the letter stands for, and have one member of the group pray for the Lakatos family in that respect.

M (I Timothy 1:12)

“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.”

I (Philippians 4:19)

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

S (Isaiah 40:31)

“But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

S (Psalms 4:8)

“In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.”

I (James 1:5)

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

O (Colossians 4:3)

“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ”.

N (I Corinthians 3:9)

“For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

Pray for the Lakatos Family. Pray for their:



Ministry: success in what God called them to do (I Timothy 1:12)

Income: steady monthly financial support (Philippians 4:19)

Strength: physical, emotional and spiritual strength for the family (Isaiah 40:31)

Safety: unexpected dangers from living in Mexico (Psalms 4:8)

Insight: wisdom to understand and adapt to the Mexican culture (James 1:5)

Opportunities: ideas and ways to share the Good News of Jesus (Colossians 4:3)

National partners: Mexican Christians who do God's work in their own country (I Corinthians 3:9)

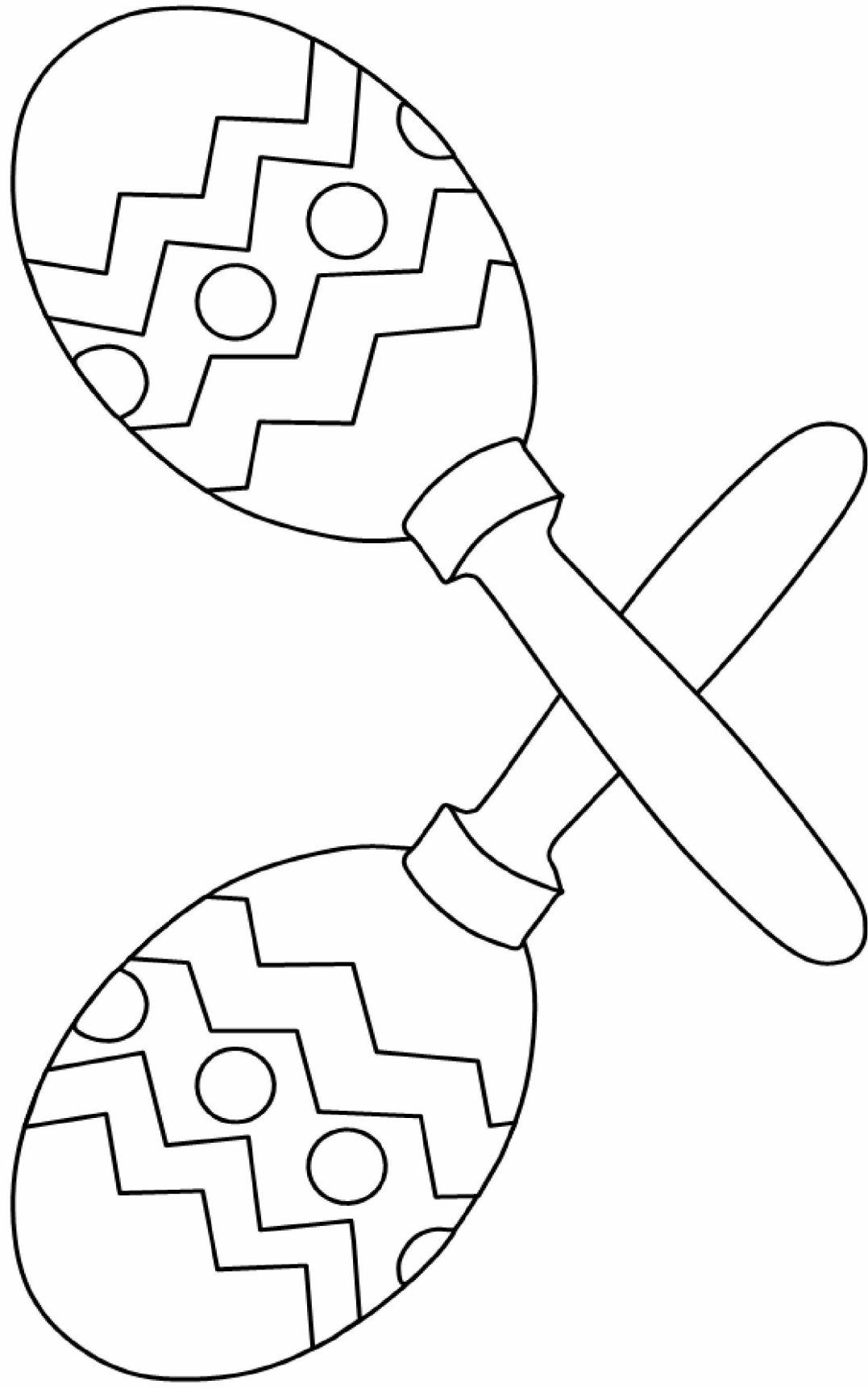
"...since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you...."
Colossians 1:9

Find the hidden things the Lakatos Family will encounter in Mexico

T Z T M O G V K K I O R
D H E N T Q S O C C E R
X S X P R I O K A M P Y
E I A S A X E T Y P P W
M N S S O M B R E R O A
P A P Z X F A W S X M X
T P Y T I C O C I X E M
C S V M O N A R C H Z J
J G Z J F V G T R H U K
H R C E T Z A B N J H W
K O S E P W X R G U W C
E T H B U T T E R F L Y

AZTEC
BUTTERFLY
MEXICO CITY
MONARCH
PESO

SOCCER
SOMBRERO
SPANISH
TACO
TEXAS



Maracas are simple musical instruments made from a dried gourd shell filled with beans or seeds.